



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 30th, 2020; 6:30 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Rick Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01), Rick Murphy (2E03), Anna Landre (2E04), Lisa Palmer (2E05), Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06), and Elizabeth Miller (2E07) were present.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Approval of the ANC's November 30th, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the ANC's November 30th, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0).

Approval of the ANC's November 2nd, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lohse moved to approve the ANC's November 2nd, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

**Administrative**

Public Safety and Police Report

Captain Brian Bray, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

Douglas Klein, an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, gave an update from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

Approval of the ANC's January 2021 Meeting Date

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve Monday, January 4th, 2021 as the ANC's January 2021 meeting date. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

**Community Comment**

Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Councilmember Brooke Pinto gave an update from her office.

### Update from the Mayor's Office

Anna Noakes, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave an update from the Mayor's Office.

### Update from the Department of Parks and Recreation Regarding the Jelleff Recreation Center Renovation and the Ready2Play Master Plan

Tommie Jones, the Chief of External Affairs for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), gave an update regarding the Jelleff Recreation Center renovation and the Ready2Play Master Plan.

### Update from the Georgetown BID

Joe Sternlieb, the CEO and President of the Georgetown BID, gave an update from the organization.

### Update from Georgetown Main Street

Rachel Shank, the Executive Director of Georgetown Main Street (GMS), gave an update from the organization.

### Update from the Citizens Association of Georgetown

Tara Sakraida Parker, the President of the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), gave an update from the organization.

### Update Regarding Neighborhood Schools

Commissioner Putta gave an update regarding neighborhood schools.

### **New Business**

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Run-Off at Mount Zion Cemetery / Female Union Band Society Cemetery

Commissioner Miller moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Lohse seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

The historic Mount Zion Cemetery and Female Union Band Society Cemetery are located at 27th Street and Mill Road NW in Georgetown. The adjoining burial grounds occupy approximately three and a half acres of land. The property fronts Mill Road NW and overlooks Rock Creek Park to the rear. Mount Zion Cemetery, positioned to the east, is approximately 67,300 square feet. The Female Union Band Cemetery, situated to the west, is approximately 66,500 square feet. Mount Zion Cemetery, founded in 1808 as the Old Methodist Burying Ground, was leased for 99 years and later sold to Mount Zion United Methodist Church. Although the cemetery was the resting place for white, enslaved, and freed black church members at its inception, it served an almost exclusively African American population after 1849. In 1842, the Female Union Band Society purchased the

western lot to establish a secular burying ground for African Americans. Both cemeteries ceased being used for new burials by 1950.

Both cemeteries are often considered a single ground and were added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 6th, 1975.

The cemetery has been facing a very serious stormwater runoff situation for years. The fundamental problem relates to the paved surfaces of a portion of Q Street, 27th Street north of Q Street, Mill Road, and the parking lot behind the apartment building at 2527-2531 Q Street NW that have no curbing or stormwater collection mechanisms as do the other finished roadways of Georgetown. The result is that water from even light rainfall channels into the signed entrance of the Female Union Band Society Cemetery, creating flooding and erosion of the burial grounds. Stormwater runoff has created a near-constant pond in the cemetery, causing visible ground subsidence in an area of documented burials and undermining the foundation of a prominent memorial.

The lack of stormwater management is also causing frequent water pooling along the cemetery property's boundary with Mill Road NW. The standing water is a mosquito breeding ground, which is not healthy for nearby residents or visitors to the cemetery.

Finally, the described paved surfaces, plus the semi-paved access road leading into the Dumbarton House parking lot, channel additional unmanaged stormwater down the old Lyon Mill public path, creating erosion and soil runoff into Rock Creek. The result is a now-hazardous path for walkers, runners, and cyclists attempting to move between Georgetown and Rock Creek Parkway.

ANC 2E requests that the Natural Resources Administration of the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) work together to formally review the area and create an action plan that will address the unmanaged stormwater damaging the burial grounds and the public pathway.

ANC 2E further requests a meeting in January 2021 to discuss this issue with the two agencies and to begin to organize a formal plan, complete with a timeline for this project. The ANC worries that without a timely plan to fix this problem, this important historic landmark will be damaged irreparably.

#### Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Improving Conditions on N Street Between 31st Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

Conditions on N Street between Wisconsin Avenue and 31st Street NW continue to be challenging for all who use the street and sidewalks. Even with less vehicular traffic because of the pandemic, ambulances continue to get caught behind traffic that is not moving and cars continue to be sideswiped.

ANC 2E has previously asked for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to evaluate the conditions on this block. Residents continue to request that consideration be made for changing this block to mirror Dumbarton Street NW to the north by altering the traffic flow to one way only. In light of DDOT's reluctance to evaluate this alteration at this time, the ANC reiterates the following requests in an attempt to address, in part, the continued poor conditions on the block:

1. As requested in ANC 2E's resolution dated September 4th, 2018 (Attachment A), the ANC requests the removal of the metered parking spots on the south side of N Street at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue NW in order to increase capacity at the intersection. This will make turning on to and off of N Street NW significantly easier and will remove frequent backups which at times extend down Wisconsin Avenue NW and across N Street NW. DDOT has already agreed to make this change; in fact, in correspondence with Mr. Evian Patterson on February 13th, 2020, Mr. Patterson noted the following: "In regards to the spaces on the south side, it's already in the works for removal and sign adjustment. That work was missed in the original work order, but I sent to the Meter team to rectify following our meeting last week and checking the original service request. Hopefully, we can get that taken care of soon." We are extremely grateful for Mr. Patterson's continued focus on this issue but note that, unfortunately, this work has not been completed almost ten months later. The ANC requests, once again, that the removal of these metered spots be handled in an expedient fashion. The ANC also continues to request that DDOT considers the installation of flex posts or a narrow bike rack to replace these parking spots so that people do not illegally use these spots to quickly run errands in that area.
2. Residents on this block of N Street NW are very grateful for the repaving of their block, however they note that the curbs are still in poor condition. ANC 2E notes that in an attempt to prevent being sideswiped by cars traveling across this atypically narrow block of N Street NW, people often park on top of the curb because the curb is broken in multiple locations. On behalf of the residents of this block, the ANC requests that DDOT quickly completes its work to repair the curb on this block (see photos in Attachment B).
3. ANC 2E also notes that the sidewalk conditions on this block are poor. Multiple 3-1-1 calls have been made about this situation, including, but not limited to, request #2000341612. Furthermore, the PaveDC website states that the sidewalks on this block were already repaired (see photo in Attachment C). However, they have not been repaired. The ANC requests that DDOT evaluates the conditions of the sidewalk as soon as possible and quickly addresses those areas of the sidewalk that are a danger to pedestrians and need rebuilding and rehabilitation (see photo in Attachment C).
4. ANC 2E continues to request that DDOT considers this block of N Street NW for designation as a Slow Street. If this is not possible, the ANC asks that DDOT shares the Slow Streets criteria that this block does not meet so that the ANC can better understand which blocks do and do not merit this consideration.

Application by Safeway for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "B" Grocery License at 1855 Wisconsin Avenue NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

Application by Scheele's Market for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "B" Grocery License at 1331 29th Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

Application by Sara's Market for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "B" Grocery License at 3008 Q Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

Application by Via Umbria for Renewal of the Establishment's Retailer's Class "B" Grocery License at 1525 Wisconsin Avenue NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

**Old Georgetown Board**

SMD 2E03 - OG 21-014 (HPA 21-028) 1515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Chair Murphy moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E is troubled by reports that the applicant of this building did not comply with the requirements for neighbor notification before submitting the application to the Old Georgetown Board for this project. The ANC is also extremely troubled by the height and size of the proposed addition to the existing structure at 1515 Wisconsin Avenue NW. If approved the massive addition would overwhelm the existing structure and overshadow the smaller historic structures lying to the east. If permitted the proposed addition would have an irreparable negative effect on the historic fabric of Georgetown.

ANC 2E makes no comments at this time on the elements of this proposal that have zoning implications. The ANC will address these implications when the ANC has an opportunity to comment on the application for a special exception. However the ANC urges, with as much strength as the ANC can, that the members of the Old Georgetown Board recommend denial of the concept design for this project.

SMD 2E05 - OG 20-243 (HPA 20-437) 2818 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Putta seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E supports the proposed renovation to 2818 Pennsylvania Avenue NW and looks forward to seeing expanded gallery space in our community.

SMD 2E05 - OG 21-047 (HPA 21-088) 3401 Water Street, NW

Commissioner Palmer moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 5-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2E believes that the changes in height of this proposal are relatively insignificant in comparison to the size of the building in its entirety. Furthermore, the ANC supports some of the more aesthetic changes proposed here including the change of color and keeping the original roof of the building.

**Adjournment**

Chair Murphy adjourned the meeting at 9:39 pm.